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KATY SICK OF HER FAME, ARE YOU? {page 08}

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BOSTON
Tuesday, April 10, 2012

COURTESY OF MAX BELIN

Quidditch. Swept up

▶ A player on Boston University's quidditch team catches air during a recent match.

Quidditch, the make-believe sport made famous by the "Harry Potter" series, is becoming increasingly popular among college students in Greater Boston and across the country. Several local teams have become internationally ranked in the game, in which players "ride" broomsticks and try to get one of several various-sized balls through a hoop. {page 04}

Online retail putting local stores in a taxing place

◗ Shoppers at Internet giants like Amazon don't pay Mass. sales tax ◗ Local sellers say law puts them at a disadvantage ◗ Group asks state for help {page 02}

Metropolitik

Voter ID drive is really about stifling voices

◗ Hidden-camera prankster has sinister motivations ◗ He's trying to restrict expression of voter liberty, not save it {page 06}

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Small retailers take aim at online stores, tax collection

Group wants state to force Amazon.com to collect tax from customers ◆ Small-business owners say they lose out to online giant ◆ Group says state losing millions in tax revenue

Saying that they are at an unfair disadvantage against massive online retailers, a group of small-business leaders called on state officials yesterday to help them out as they try to avoid fates similar to Borders.

At issue is the state sales tax, which must be collected by businesses with a physical presence in a state even if the purchase is made online.

The new group, called the Massachusetts Main Street Fairness Coalition, took aim at Seattle-based online retail giant Amazon.com, which does not collect the 6.25 percent sales tax on goods shipped to Massachusetts.

Currently, businesses like Walmart and even smaller, independent shops collect sales tax on their online orders. That puts them at a disadvantage and hurts their business and in turn, their contribution to the community, the coalition said.

"We do the same thing as the big boys and we have to charge the sales tax," said David Didriksen, owner of Willow Books in Acton. "The state itself takes the side against us. There should be one set of rules for everyone."

Amazon has been hunting for employees in the Greater Boston area as it looks to establish a research center in Cambridge, the Globe reported in December.

That, the coalition said, means the state should force Amazon to start collecting sales tax here.

"It's unfair that business like this is not on the same level playing field," said Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll who is also co-chair of the coalition.

A recent act by the California Legislature to tax Internet sales was initially met with opposition by Amazon, but the company has since come to an agreement with the state that it would begin collecting sales tax there later this year, according to the Los Angeles Times.

Retailers yesterday called on Bay State leaders to help.

"We need to make sure we do not have another holiday season with this six and a quarter (sales tax) disparity."
JON HURST, PRESIDENT OF THE RETAILERS ASSOCIATION OF MASSACHUSETTS

"Nobody likes an exemption that supports the big guys and doesn't help independent retailers."
SALEM MAYOR KIM DRISCOLL

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
michael.naughton@metro.us

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Salem Mayor Kimberley Driscoll spoke to the media yesterday at the Harvard Book Store about the creation of the Main Street Fairness Coalition which calls for the state sales tax to be collected from online stores such as Amazon.com.

Mass. consideration

The issue of a tax for online purchases was floated as recently as last year in the state Legislature.

- The state Legislature's Committee on Revenue voted last summer to support a bill that would allow the state to collect tax on online purchases.
- However, House Speaker Robert DeLeo said late last year that he still wanted to hear both sides of the issue before making a final decision, according to the State House News Service.
- Opponents claim the bill is a new tax and would dissuade consumers who already have little extra money to spend in a weakened economy.
- The National Conference of State Legislatures estimated that states will lose about $23.3 billion this year from being prohibited from collecting sales tax from online and catalog purchases.

METRO/MN

In the news

$53.38

The average price for a ticket to see the Red Sox at Fenway Park, according to new data released by Team Marketing Report. According to the Boston Business Journal, those tickets are the most expensive for 2012 in the Major League, coming in at $1.83 more than a Yankees ticket. METRO

Today's local tweet

'Mbta conductor advised me on love "she may be a friend in your eyes but you dont know. It's about how you say things" #mbtaloveadvice'

@MINDLESSPHOTOS GETTING LIFE HELP WHILE TAKING THE TRAIN ON MONDAY

Artwork capitalizes on public spaces, feedback

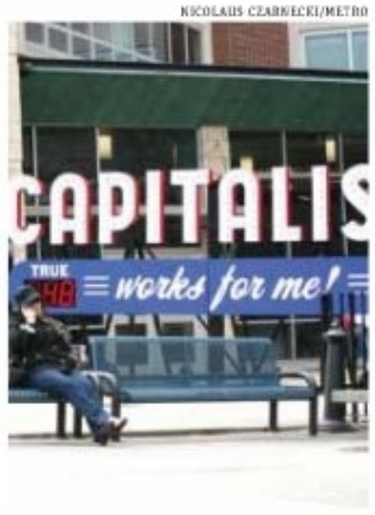
BOSTON. A large art installment is making its rounds in the Hub, asking participants to vote on how they feel about capitalism.

The 20-foot-long, illuminated "Capitalism Works for Me! True/False" display, built by Jamaica Plain resident Steve Lambert, asks passers-by to pick "Yes" or "No" by pressing a button.

The display was in front of the Massachusetts College of Art and Design yesterday, and will move to Newton North High School on Thursday.

The sign is described as harnessing "humor and brashness to address one of the most common and complicated issues of our time — the economy and growing ... class disparity." METRO

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO



Fraternity investigated for condiment caper

BOSTON. An Allston fraternity is under investigation after police discovered students duct-taped together in their underwear and covered in various condiments Monday.

According to WCVB-TV, Boston's Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity is accused of hazing students believed to be from Boston University.

Police responding to Ashford Street found five men doused with flour, coffee grinds, fish sauce, and other sauces, with portions of their heads shaved, the report said.

Police said, "all five were shivering and horrified and had fearful looks on their faces," WCVB said.

The fraternity is not affiliated with BU, a spokesman said.

METRO

T budget transfer far from done deal

More cuts could happen if Legislature doesn't move funds Officials skeptical about shifting state surplus

Riders could face more fare increases and service cuts if the Legislature doesn't pass a portion of the governor's transportation minireform bill to help bail out the MBTA — a measure discussed yesterday during a hearing with the Joint Transportation Committee at the State House.

State Rep. William Straus, the committee's co-chairman, expressed concern about transferring $51 million from the state motor vehicle inspection trust to close the T's fiscal 2013 budget.

Straus said some of the surplus should be diverted to Regional Transit Agencies in communities that aren't serviced by the MBTA.

"People all around the state are contributing [to that fund] when they get their cars inspected," said Straus.

According to the State House News Service, Straus said there's no question that

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ MBTA fares could be increasing again

"what the Legislature ultimately does on this question affects the viability of [the MBTA's] overall plan."

But MassDOT Secretary Rich Davey stressed if the money isn't put towards the T's budget, the MassDOT Board of Directors would be forced to consider more fare hikes and service cuts in addition to the 23 percent spike they approved last week.

"It's a position we prefer not to be in," said Davey.

Brian Kane, policy analyst for the MBTA Advisory Board, said the Legislature's decision is "anyone's guess."

If the money isn't shifted, however, Kane believes the T may consider slashing more services.

"I do think they will pull the list of cuts out of their back pockets unless this is approved," he said.

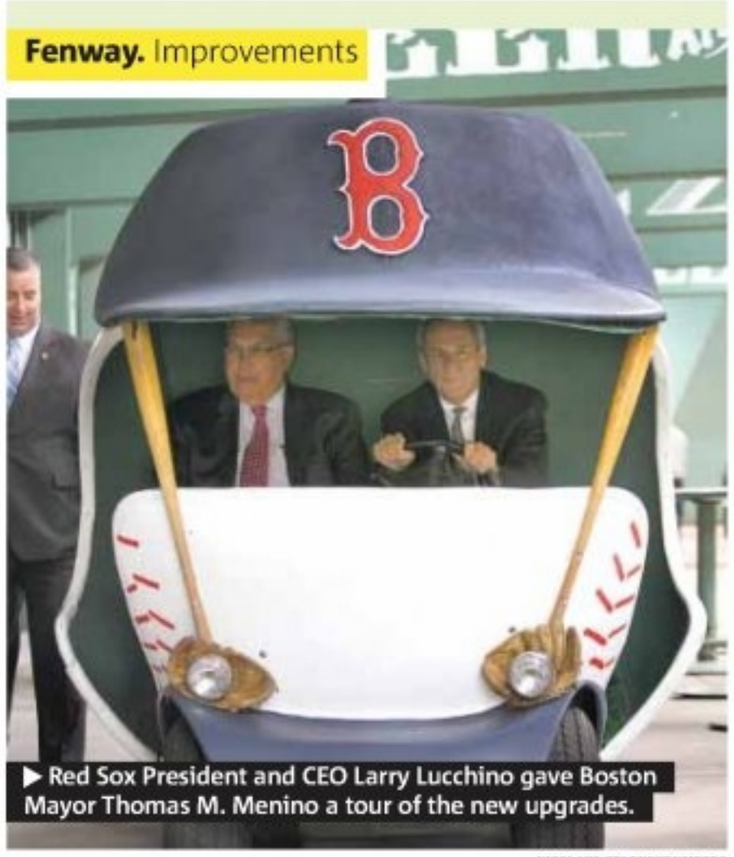
The legislation, filed by Gov. Deval Patrick late last month, also contains measures to curb fare evasion and post ads on the RMV website.

Members of the transportation committee said they would take on the bill "piecemeal," focusing first on the MBTA's immediate budgetary concerns.

The committee is expected to vote on the fund transfer in the next few weeks.

STEVE ANNEAR
steve.annear@metro.us

Fenway. Improvements



▶ Red Sox President and CEO Larry Lucchino gave Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino a tour of the new upgrades.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Fenway readies for Opening Day

Red Sox officials opened Fenway Park to city leaders and the media for a sneak peak at some additions to the century-old ballpark, which include plaques that highlight Fenway's history. New menu items include gluten-free pizza and hot dog rolls. The home opener is Friday. METRO

Terrorist wants no more than 7 years in jail

Lawyers for Tarek Mehanna, the 29-year-old Sudbury man convicted last year on terrorism charges, have asked for a sentence of no more than seven years in jail.

That sentence "would reflect the seriousness of the offense, promote respect for the law, provide just punishment, afford adequate deterrence and protect the public," his lawyers wrote in court documents filed yesterday.

A federal jury found Mehanna guilty on multiple charges including providing material support to terrorists and conspiracy to commit murder in a foreign country.

His lawyers said that their recommendation is based on Mehanna's "low risk of recidivism" and the "harsh" conditions in which he is likely to be imprisoned.

He potentially faces a sentence of up to life in prison.

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Brooms, booms, costumes

Quidditch craze continues to grow on college campuses BU students nominated to go to London event Boston-area teams rank high abroad

Learn the lingo

- **Chasers:** There are three. Their job is to get the quaffle, a volleyball, passed around the field, into one of the opponents' three hoops.
- **Keeper:** Like a goaltender, they guard the three hoops, but can also act as a fourth Chaser.
- **Beaters:** They handle bludgers (a kickball/dodgeball) and use them to attack the other team. There are three bludgers on the field at all times.
- **Snitch:** A nonpartisan athlete dressed in yellow/gold who has a ball attached to their back via an athletic sock.
- **Seeker:** Tasked with catching "the snitch" without tackling.

The evolving game of Quidditch, best known for its ensorcelling action sequences in the "Harry Potter" series, is kicking off its spring season.

It isn't just a bunch of Potter fanatics on brooms, donning capes, bouncing a ball around, however. From tackles to tosses, this full-on physical sport has a big following in Boston and beyond.

"It can be a little bit dangerous," said Boston University senior Kedzie Teller. "You have people who hit cheap and hit hard."

Captain of BU's Quidditch team, Teller has been playing the sport for three years to stay active following a brief run on the school's track team his freshman year. In his time on the field, Teller said he has seen his fair share of physical follies between players.

Quoted

"Basically, you have to learn how to tackle with a broom." TELLER

"When I describe what sports it's most similar to, I say rugby, handball and dodge ball," said Teller. "Basically, you have to learn how to tackle with a broom."

Teller was recently one of three students from BU nominated to attend the 2012 Olympics in London representing Team USA.

Since its inception in 2005 at Middlebury College in Vermont, the sport of Quidditch has grown rapidly, bringing its "magic" to campuses across the commonwealth.

Tufts University currently ranks fifth regionally in Quidditch, while Harvard University and Emerson College are recognized as the 33rd and 49th teams, respectively, by the International Quidditch Association.

"It's a lot of physical play," said Allison Gillette, commissioner of Emerson's Quidditch league. "It's becoming a very attractive sport because it includes everything. You have to run constantly and you have to be strong."

Eric Wahl and Matt Lowe, also Emerson students, even brought fame to the once-fabled sport by launching its official athletic apparel company. The duo dishes out equipment for the IQA, the governing body for the newfound sport.

STEVE ANNEAR
steve.annear@metro.us

MAX BELIN

▶ BU's Max Havlin seizes the "quaffle" during a World Cup V Quidditch match at Randall's Island Park in New York.

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MARK WILSON/GETTY IMAGES

▶ U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder

Breitbart.com attack dog James O'Keefe released the latest in his series of misleading "gotcha" videos yesterday, evidently exposing the need for voter ID laws by capturing one of his operatives committing said fraud.

In the new hidden camera video, an actor requests and nearly receives a ballot for U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, who opposes ID laws. (Instead of taking the ballot, a federal crime, he leaves under the pretense of grabbing his ID.)

O'Keefe contrasts the ease of receiving a fraudulent ballot with video of Holder saying the issue is "a problem that does not exist" and that "there is no proof" that it does. The video prankster's message is clear: Here's the proof that voter ID laws are needed to prevent this pernicious evil.

Of course, nonpartisan law institute Brennan Center for Justice points out "that voter fraud is essentially irrational," "that no credible evidence suggests a voter fraud epidemic" and that "it happens approximately 0.0009 percent of the time," a statistically negligible level. Others note that one vote holds very little sway and that the consequences of subverting democracy can be quite harsh. (A $10,000 fine, five years in prison.) The logic behind an organized voter fraud campaign, therefore, would be exceptionally thin.

But then, this whole ginned-up controversy was never about protecting the sanctity of the voting box. What O'Keefe and his allies take pains to neglect is the fact that voter ID laws tend to disproportionally affect the poor and minorities, who may not have access to proper identification. And these demographics are known to reliably support Democrats. There is no evidence to suggest that such fraud is a problem; but for the GOP, minority voters do pose a problem come November.

O'Keefe and Brietbart.com continue the right-wing tradition of "proving" to voters that government doesn't work ... by breaking it themselves. ("We must start unwinnable foreign wars! Oh no, look at this deficit!!") What matters to these fraudsters is winning; and if the price of victory is minority disenfranchisement, so much the better.

Let's just be honest: Their motivations are anything but.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

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GETTY IMAGES/INSTAGRAM/METRO PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

▶ Zuckerberg's been Instagram'd!

Facebook to pay $1B for Instagram

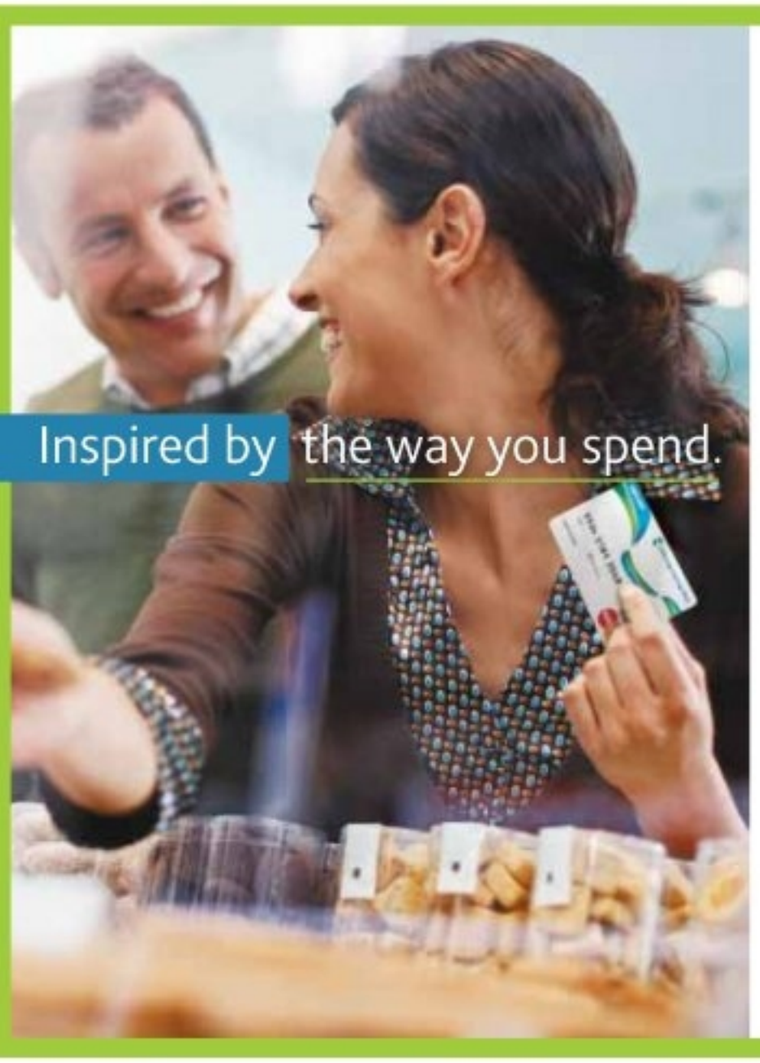
Facebook will pay $1 billion in cash and stock for Instagram, a 2-year-old photo-sharing application developer, in its largest-ever acquisition just months before the No. 1 social media website is expected to go public.

The price was stunning for an apps-maker without any significant revenue, as Facebook sought to absorb a potential rival or at least prevent it from falling into the hands of a major competitor.

Instagram is "a property that would have been amazingly valuable to not just Facebook, certainly Twitter was in the hunt as well." LOU KERNER

The acquisition marks an exception in strategy for Facebook, which has traditionally bought small companies as a means of hiring coveted teams of engineers.

REUTERS



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THE WORD

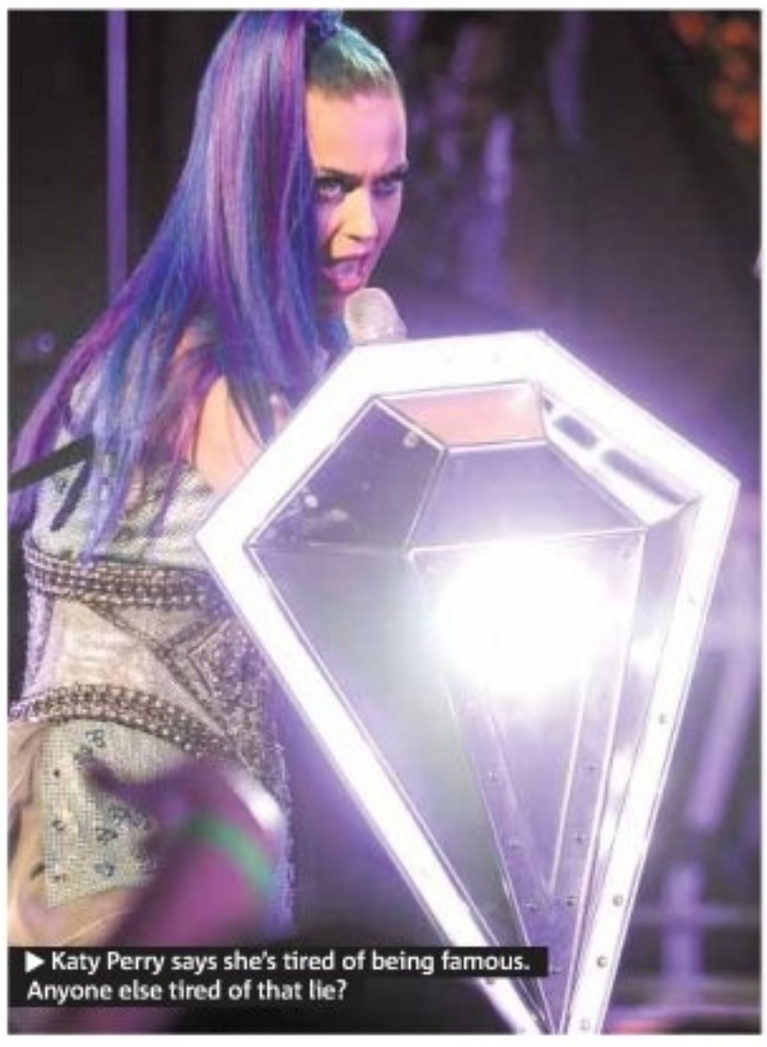
Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Katy Perry is 'tired' of her fabricated fame

Oh boo-hoo: **Katy Perry**, one of the most manufactured pop stars of the past decade, is fed up with fame, according to Teen Vogue. "I'm tired of being famous already! But I'm not tired of creating. Fame is, I think, just a disgusting by-product of what I do," Perry tells the magazine. "It's a delicate creature — a wild animal of sorts. It can love you, and then it can attack you. But really, I stopped focusing on what other people think a while ago."

Oh, so you wearing an ice cream bra, marrying a super famous actor and then divorcing him, riding "Teenage Dream" into the ground until it yielded as many No. 1 singles as "Thriller" and then recently releasing yet another version of that 2010 album ("Teenage Dream: The Complete Confection") are all ploys to keep you under the radar? Yes, that totally makes sense.

Being famous and then complaining about being famous is so tiring. You can give it all up and live in a yurt, you know. It's not that hard to not be a celebrity anymore. Just look at **Tiffany.** You can do that, too!



▶ Katy Perry says she's tired of being famous. Anyone else tired of that lie?

Lopez is the ultimate sugar mama

When it comes to her boy toy's birthday, **Jennifer Lopez**, 42, really goes big. The singer reportedly gifted beau/backup dancer **Casper Smart** with a custom white Dodge pickup truck for his 25th birthday, according to People magazine. Lopez "knew that Casper really wanted a truck, and Casper was very excited about the generous gift," a source says. "Casper was so excited about his new truck that he decided to drive it to dinner. She was smiling about Casper's excitement."

OK, first of all, whoever this "source" is needs to stop sounding like a quote-giving robot; no one talks like that. Second, considering how much shilling she's been doing for Fiat, it's surprising Lopez would buy American. Third: Isn't dating Jennifer Lopez a gift enough? Smart better not get greedy.

Lopez likes to buy her boys toys.

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Jessica Simpson is hoping for a last-minute boost in magazine sales, John Fugelsang knows his countrymen, Leslie Mann is having some trouble and Conan O'Brien is not impressed with himself.

@JessicaSimpson
Last chance to see me "fat" aka PREGNANT on the cover of Elle :) I loved this shoot, only on stands for a few more days!!!

@JohnFugelsang
The only thing Americans hate more than the Chinese being communist is when the Chinese outdo us as capitalists.

@LeslieJMann
Just cut my lip trying to bite off the corkscrew to my wine bottle. Im alone too.

@ConanOBrien
Just saw a lame white guy lip-synching a Jay-Z song as I drove past the mirror store.

Coco

Talking points

Biel is serious about being a bride

Jessica Biel is a bride-to-be on a mission. The actress, who is reportedly engaged to **Justin Timberlake**, embarked on a seven-hour shopping spree in Paris Friday — with stops at no less than two major bridal designers, according to People magazine. Biel's assistant, at her side the whole time, was reportedly toting a massive wedding planning book. Sources have speculated that the couple will tie the knot this summer.

▶ The married couple to be?

Kidman to tackle Kelly

Nicole Kidman is reportedly the front-runner to play **Grace Kelly** in an indie film about the actress-turned-princess's early days as a member of the royal family in Monaco, according to The Hollywood Reporter. The film, "Grace of Monaco," will be directed by "La Vie en Rose" helmer **Olivier Dahan**. "Nearly every top actress in Hollywood chased the demanding yet coveted role," a source says, though no official deals have been made.

Fox is modest on success

Michael J. Fox didn't have high hopes for "Back to the Future," the 1985 film that made him a star, since pulling double duty on his sitcom, "Family Ties," while filming the movie left him near exhaustion. "I ended up getting about three hours of sleep a night, because they had to get the movie out that summer," he tells Parade. "[While we were making it], I thought I sucked in it. I really, truly thought I was terrible. So many times I was practically unconscious because I was so tired."

Can't we forgive Jesse James already?

Jesse James thinks it's about time everyone forgave him for cheating on **Sandra Bullock**. "I think I've paid the price and then some, you know? I don't know anybody anywhere that's had to endure what I had to endure for basically infidelity," the reality TV star tells Yahoo's omg! blog. "I stood up like a man and admitted my wrongs."

▶ James

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To 'SNL' and back

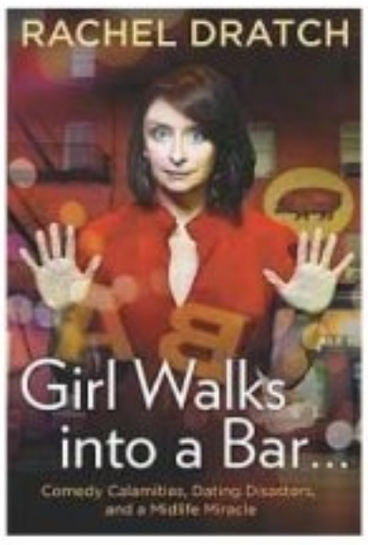
Ex-cast member Rachel Dratch releases a memoir It's more than the behind-the-scenes 'Saturday Night Live' tell-all you might be expecting

You may know Rachel Dratch as "Debbie Downer" from her stint on "Saturday Night Live" or for her cameos on "30 Rock," but the 46-year-old comedian has more stories to tell than the standard ex-"SNL"-er's behind-the-scenes yarns.

"It all started because I wasn't getting acting jobs, basically," Dratch says dryly when asked about how she began to write her memoir, "Girl Walks Into a Bar." The actress, having parted with "SNL" in 2006 after seven years, had first decided to write a book about her dating experiences in New York City, having been courted by all manner of strange men — including one particular gem who had an interest in consuming horse meat. But then something unexpected happened.

"There was this crazy twist that happened in my life and I thought maybe I should start writing about this," she says. Dratch, at 43 years old, after having given up on the idea of being married with kids someday, unexpectedly got pregnant and decided to make that "midlife miracle," as she calls it, the centerpiece of her book.

"I feel a little exposed about the fact that people are going to read so much about me," she says. "But, I guess it's the kind of thing that I like to read, so I was just trying to be true as a, whatever, dare I say, artist. I didn't want to gloss over things. The whole thing about not having kids is those baby showers. I think so many women feel the way that I talk about in the book — I think there's lots of disappointment in these women's hearts."



"I was just trying to be true as a, whatever, dare I say, artist. I didn't want to gloss over things."
DRATCH

While Dratch does explore some of these sensitive issues, she's not short on the dish when it comes to her own love life and her time on "Saturday Night Live," even if she is loath to admit that her unique perspective on that legendary TV show is a fascinating component to the book.

"I don't even really want to talk about 'SNL' just because, to me, so many people have described their experience there," she says. "When I was there, it was pretty supportive. It's very competitive to get your scene on, but there wasn't a lot of ugliness or sabotage. I wasn't hiding the big story where there was backstabbing. It's such highs and such lows there. Only people that have been there understand what it's like to get your scene cut at 11 p.m. before you're going on. But then on the flip side, it's the pinnacle of sketch comedy."

Rachel on dating a comedian:

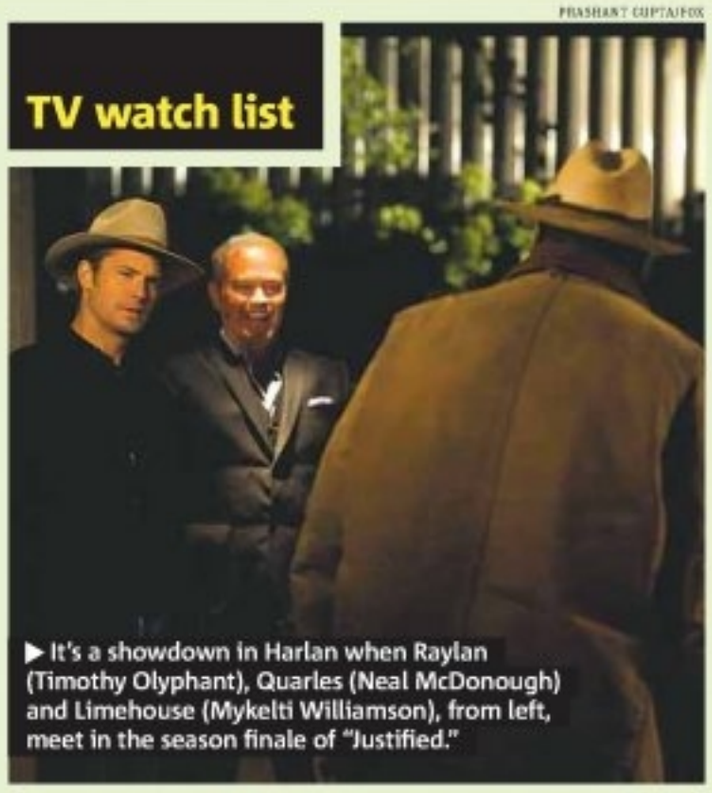
"I think I'm pretty bad at spotting a crazy person, unless they're muttering on the street — then I know they're crazy. But I think, as I said in the book, I sort of swore off dating comedians because they're not stable. They're not really looking to settle down, so I was fooled by a few ... normal-seeming guys who turned out to be just as f—ed up as the comedians."

Rachel Dratch reads for a sold-out audience tonight at Coolidge Corner Theatre (290 Harvard St., Brookline).

HEIDI PATALANO
heidi.patalano@metro.us

TV watch list

PRASHANT GUPTA/FOX


▶ It's a showdown in Harlan when Raylan (Timothy Olyphant), Quarles (Neal McDonough) and Limehouse (Mykelti Williamson), from left, meet in the season finale of "Justified."

'Justified'

DRAMA. It just wouldn't be a proper sendoff to Raylan Givens if at least two people didn't want him dead, now would it? The entirety of Season 3 has been leading to this: The trigger-happy marshal facing off with Detroit gangster Quarles and Harlan County crime lord Limehouse in the Season 3 finale. **Season finale, 10 p.m., FX**

'Glee'

COMEDY. "White Collar" star Matt Bomer guest stars as Blaine's equally talented, just as dreamy older brother. Of course, we're talking about Matt Bomer, so those attributes were a given. **Midseason premiere, 8 p.m., Fox**

'Shannen Says'

REALITY. "90210" star/tabloid magnet Shannen Doherty, whom we would have pegged as a total bridezilla, turns out to be kind of normal as cameras tag along while she plans her wedding to photographer Kurt Iswarienko. **Series premiere, 10 p.m., WEtv**

'Deadliest Catch'

REALITY. New season, new ships for the sons of late captain Phil Harris, who take posts on the Time Bandit and the Northwestern. **Season premiere, 9 p.m., Discovery**

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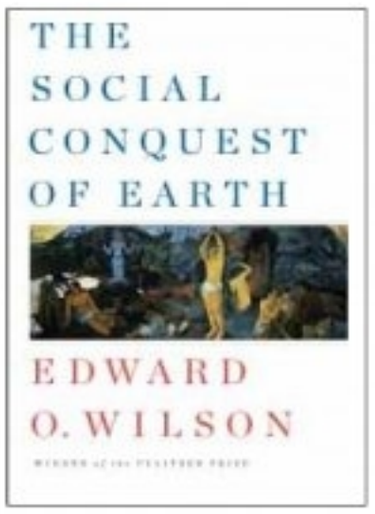


Biologist E.O. Wilson takes on human behavior

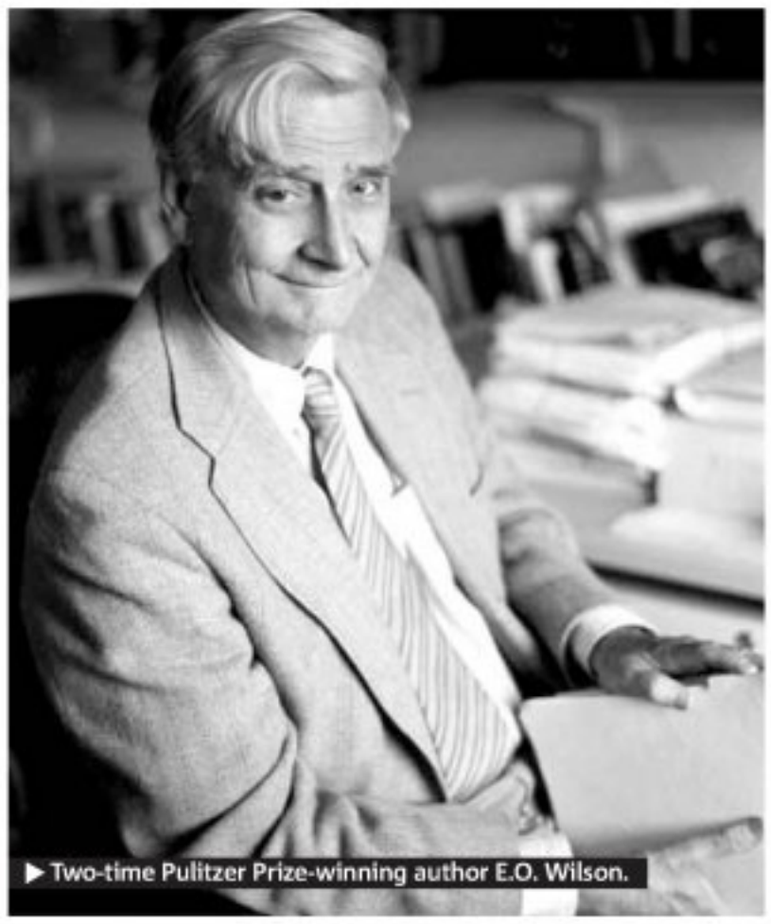
At the outset of his new book, "The Social Conquest of Earth," biologist E.O. Wilson takes an admiring look at Paul Gauguin's "Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?" — the artist's 12-foot-wide Tahitian masterpiece.

"I was enchanted by that," Wilson says. "This great artist has got it; he knows that these are the great questions of religion and philosophy, and few people have been willing to state them so baldly. And I said, let's see if we can answer those questions."

His attempt, in partnership with two Harvard mathematicians, is spelled out in a new and controversial theory of human evolution. One of the world's preeminent biologists, Wilson is no stranger to controversy — and at 82, he's lived to see many of his most radical theories become common knowledge.

"I go further, I think, than anyone has gone before in trying to provide a biological explanation for the origins of some of the most important human behaviors that have also been considered the most elusive or indefinable," Wilson explains. "That includes morality, honor, religion and creative arts."

In the end, though, from this complicated saga of biological evolution and competing impulses, Wilson hopes for one very simply stated goal: "A more enlightened, secular view of the world."



▶ Two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author E.O. Wilson.

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What to do if you suspect someone of child abuse

Child abuse happens more often than you might think. But how is it characterized, and what can you do if you suspect that a child is at risk?

"Abuse is an epidemic problem," says Mary Pulido, executive director of The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. It's different from neglect, which is the absence of attention and care from a parent or guardian — like when children are left alone in a car or not getting the medicines they need. Abuse is on the opposite side of the continuum, when a parent or guardian is intentionally hurting a child.

CBEATAS

Although Pulido notes that sometimes it's difficult to distinguish whether an injury comes from playing or from abuse, she says that there are ways you can tell if something is amiss.

"[Abuse] is not a one-shot deal, usually," Pulido says. "You're going to see bruises in different stages of healing," she says.

Where the child is bruised is another consideration.

"When you fall, it's usually on the palms of your hands and knees," Pulido says. "Injuries on the arms or stomach are suspicious."

For infants, any injury requires further inquiry.

MARY ANN GEORGANTOPOULOS

How to report abuse

If you see a child being abused on the street, or hear a child screaming in pain, call 911.

"Police are trained to respond to sensitive calls," Pulido says.

If, as a concerned friend or neighbor, you have a suspicion that a child is being abused, call the child abuse hot line. Every state has an abuse hot line. In Boston, the number is (800) 792-5200.

"You're going to be anxious while making the report," Pulido says. "[But] it's very important that you're doing it. Due to your intervention, you can be saving a life."

Other signs

When the signs of abuse are not physically clear, such as is the case with sexual or emotional abuse, a child's behavior is the biggest indicator. According to Pulido, if a child becomes withdrawn, sad, anxious or angry, it could be a sign of abuse.

"It's difficult to detect, but if there's physical abuse happening, most children are probably being abused emotionally, too," she says.

Pulido

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Letters

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May the jobs be ever in your favor?

I just saw "Hunger Games." Was I the only one who saw an Occupy Wall Street metaphor, with the 1 percent enjoying their extravagant pleasures at the expense of the 99 percent?
RICHARD JUNGHANS, BOSTON

Media echo chamber obscures the truth

RE: "POLITICS: POINT ...": Mr. Blong's letter is merely a repeat of President Obama's lies and distortions about the GOP budget. I find it amazing that the mainstream media doesn't even bother to question any of his outrageous claims, so it is no wonder Blong would repeat it point for point. The real reason Obama opposes this budget is because it prevents him from continuing the unlimited spending that he enjoyed when the Democrats ruled the House. This spending spree has escalated our total debt in the three years under Obama higher than during the eight years that Bush raised the deficit. The Democrats have been spreading the doom and gloom message about Social Security and Medicare over the last 20 years to scare senior citizens. It didn't work then and it won't work now.
WAYNE SARGENT, VIA E-MAIL

Right wing spreads misinformation, too!

RE: "... AND COUNTERPOINT": In the USA it is wonderful that we have the liberty to have a free press and the ability to engage it. However, it does not mean the press should not censor the clearly delusional post by Kevin McCloskey. To print a letter to the editor with paranoid nonsense such as RFID implants and FEMA concentration camps is irresponsible by Metro. We all deserve a voice in a democracy but there are limits. Insanity deserves treatment and not an outlet. **ALAN JASIE, VIA E-MAIL**

Please don't print any more paranoid delusions from the misinformed! Mr. McCloskey's letter made no sense and was an insult to the conservative point of view! If Mr. McCloskey understood any of the epithets he threw at the Obama administration ("Totalitarian Marxist Stalinist State!") then he would know that a Marxist would have nationalized the banks and auto industries, instead of giving them government guaranteed loans so they could stay in private hands.
KATHLEEN KOURIAN, VIA E-MAIL

Kevin McCloskey's humorous letter illustrates how the GOP and Tea Partiers would have you believe utter nonsense. His wonderful hyperbole reads like a mainstream right-wing talk show script.
BRIAN BECK, BOSTON

When your political party supports the wealthiest 1 percent, you may have a problem getting elected by a majority of voters. One way to fix this is to associate fearful concepts with the opposing political party. It doesn't matter if there is any basis in fact, or even an understanding of the concepts; just associate things like socialism, "Nazi Germany" or forced medical procedures with your rivals. It doesn't even matter if members of your political affiliation are proposing legislation that includes state-sanctioned, forced, invasive medical procedures!
SCOTT KEELEY, VIA E-MAIL

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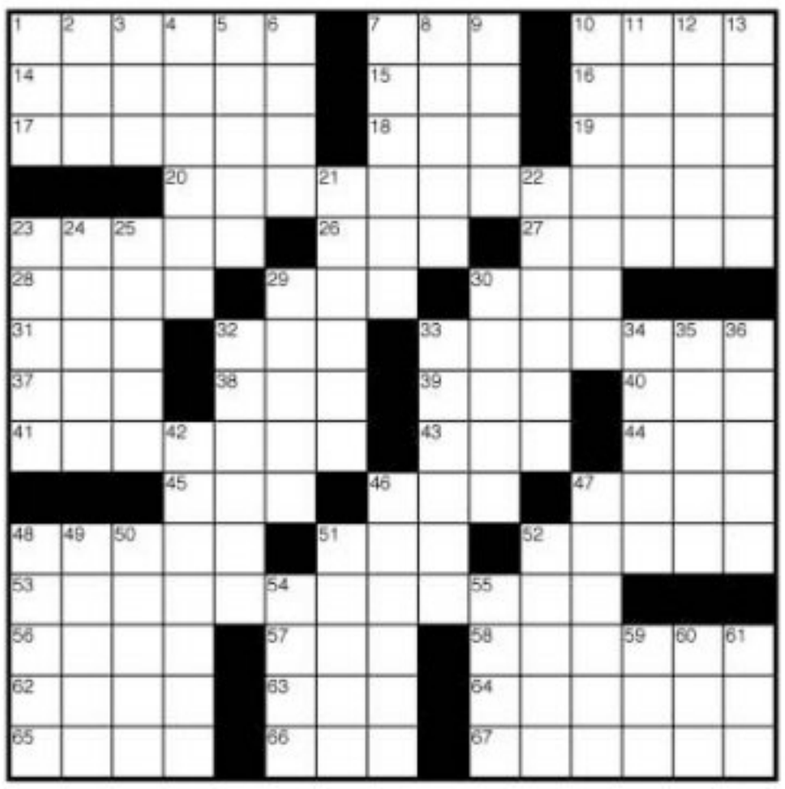
Horoscope

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Because you will be able to translate your ideas into action faster than any of your associates, you'll get out in front of the pack long before they're able to figure out what happened.
♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** An arrangement that has been giving you many problems is likely to ultimately work out well. Although you'll contribute to this outcome, outside factors will mostly be responsible for it.
♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** If you're presently unattached romantically and finding it somewhat boring, don't turn down any forthcoming invitation. There's a strong chance that you could meet someone you'd like.
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** A friendship you recently made with someone in your line of work might be able to help you get ahead. Follow his or her lead.
♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Something unique might transpire that will show you the value of friendliness. As a result, you could find yourself a bit more popular than others in your peer group.
♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Just because something isn't working out as you had anticipated doesn't mean that you can't do anything about it. Make the necessary changes; your fate is in your own hands.
♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Something that can't be done without the support of others can take a turn for the better. However, it will be up to you to take advantage of this good fortune while things are going your way.
♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** You could make some serious bank, but only if you work on ways to make the right things happen. Don't think you can leave it up to Lady Luck to do all the work.
♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** In order to be a good leader, a couple of things must be put in place. First, you need to set a good example for others to follow, and second, you should be willing to take risks.
♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** You'll do quite well at whatever you attempt right now. Others aren't likely to be envious of what you accomplish because you'll involve them in the fruits of your gain.
♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Having good friends means a lot to you, and you mean much to your pals. Your fierce sense of loyalty is a major reason why you have so many. Be sure to exercise that trait today.
♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Important things you do are likely to produce ripples. As a result, everything looks good for you both financially and socially. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

Across
1 Mariachi gig
7 Dew glistener
10 Omit
14 Cosmetic buy
15 Dark brew
16 Bridge charge
17 Emphasis
18 "Gunga __"
19 Diva's tune
20 Subtle menace (2 wds.)
23 "Star Wars" bad guy
26 Prior to
27 Find a loophole
28 Seine vistas
29 JAMA subscribers
30 Ernie Els' peg
31 FOX comedy
32 Lumber source
33 Wrestling holds
37 ___ few rounds
38 Keats opus
39 Fireman's tool
40 Puffin kin
41 Cop
43 Youngster
44 Box-office sign of yore
45 Shaggy flower
46 That fellow's
47 Oater backdrop
48 Slam-dunk targets
51 Tyler or Ullmann
52 Flip-chart stand
53 Considerable sum (3 wds.)
56 "Cathy's Clown" singer
57 I, for Wolfgang
58 Close-by (2 wds.)
62 Mr. Sevareid
63 __-Magnon man
64 Flaked off
65 Trig or geom.
66 Weaken
67 Cleopatra's adornment



Down
1 EPCOT locale
2 Winter Games grp.
3 Common abbr.
4 Spaghetti drainers
5 Ink for copiers
6 Debate side
7 Nonswimmers, perhaps
8 Drop syllables
9 Made crooked
10 Is very hungry
11 Yellow Sea land
12 Old war story
13 Setting piece
21 Accounts book
22 Followed, as a dog
23 Late-summer sign
24 Remote
25 Coffee option
29 Internet hookup
30 Michener bestseller
32 Grasshopper
33 Aborigine
34 Watering places
35 Clinic staffer
36 Olaf's toast
42 Denounce
46 Rap genre (hyph.)
47 Havoc
48 Sheik's bevy
49 Pavarotti milieu
50 Pilot the shuttle
51 Spandex fiber
52 "__ the Dragon"
54 Involuntary movements
55 Vine valley
59 Totality
60 Society column word
61 Banned pesticide

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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9		5			4			
				3				9
		8		7			3	
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	1			2		8		
8				4				
			9			3		8
3	7					6		1

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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television

- Celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain kicks off the eighth season of his hit show
- Despite his signature snark, he says no location has disappointed him

▶ Season 8 of "No Reservations" kicks off in Mozambique.

COURTESY OF THE TRAVEL CHANNEL

Quoted

"The place reveals itself to us. You can't write a script and try to conform your experiences to preconceptions."
BOURDAIN

Cutting American cuisine some slack

Bourdain said Americans can be forgiven for their lapses when it comes to food. According to Bourdain, Americans lost touch with its roots in the country's moment of wealth.

"We're a young country," he says. "We don't have a culture that's un-conflicted about food as Italy, Spain or France. ... I'm actually hopeful and optimistic about the way things are going in American dining culture."

Traveling the world with 'No Reservations'

Anthony Bourdain might just have the best job in the world. In the eighth season of "Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations" the chef takes his audience on a tour of 15 locations throughout six continents.

Throughout the season, which airs on Mondays at 9 p.m. on the Travel Channel, Bourdain plays with a venomous king cobra snake in Penang; is gouged, cupped and drained of blood by a Finnish massage therapist; rides a BMX bike on a beach in Mexico; and is kidnapped by The Black Keys.

While Bourdain claims there were no high-security moments so far this season, all of his adventures carry some element of danger.

He recalls his trip to Beirut, Lebanon, in 2006: "When you're filming with expensive cameras in a place where people are very hungry, and a few dollars makes a difference of life and death, it can understandably get very tense."

Hang locally

For Bourdain, the best experiences are the ones spent with the locals — the people who don't know who he is and what he does.

"The people who don't understand why the camera men are not eating and drinking. ... Those are the best times," he says.

Bourdain says he has one guiding principle when choosing the lineup of countries to visit: Where can he go that interests him and excites him?

"If traveling around the world and being a guest of people [is a job], if it's not interesting and fun to me, I don't see any reason it would be interesting or fun to anybody else."

His formula is simple: Travel, eat, experience — and then write.

"The place reveals itself to us," he explains. "You can't write a script and [then] try to conform your experiences to preconceptions."

Season 8 kicks off in Mozambique, where Bourdain was pleasantly surprised: "The food was amazing. I came out feeling hopeful of the world."

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3

In the news

Bard stays in Sox's rotation

Red Sox GM Ben Cherington told Sirius XM that the team would not reconsider switching Daniel Bard out of his starting role after the team has had early bullpen issues. METRO

B's look to be full strength for playoffs

Bruins backup goaltender Tuukka Rask practiced with the team yesterday after being sidelined since early March with a groin/abdominal injury.

Adam McQuaid did not practice yesterday due to his injury sustained against Washington on March 29. The Bruins called McQuaid's status "day-to-day."

The Bruins open their playoff defense of the Stanley Cup at home Thursday against the Capitals (7:30 p.m., NBCSN, NESN). MATT BURKE

3

Celtics storylines to watch vs. Heat

Low on Heat

Miami was unusually cold against the Celtics on April 1, as they got blown out in Boston, 91-72.

34.8 Was the Miami field goal percentage nine days ago at TD Garden.

Dwyane Wade did not play Sunday in a Miami win over the Pistons because of a sprained right ankle.

Three things to keep in mind as the C's mix it up with LeBron and Co. tonight (7, CSN):

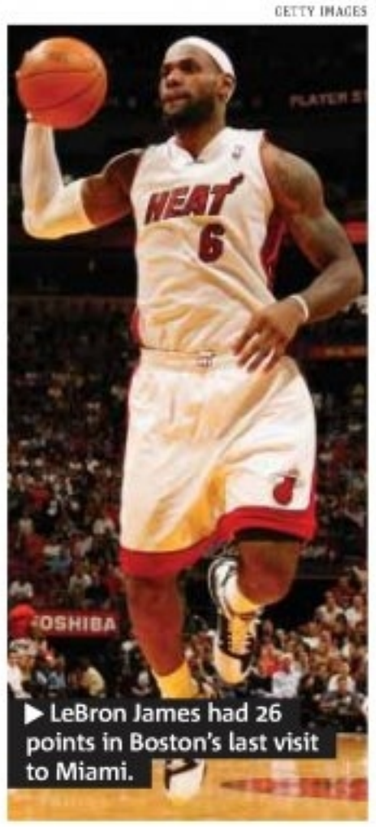
Who ever expected this?

It wasn't that long ago — the mid-March trade deadline actually — that people were calling for Danny Ainge to unload everybody and plan for next season. He didn't, and instead stood firm. At the time, the C's were playing for one of the last postseason spots. Now? They're sitting comfortably as the No. 4 seed and are just two games out of the third seed.

Heat hot at home

The C's crushed the Heat in Boston back on April 1, 91-72. You can be sure that won't be the case tonight in Miami. For one, the Heat are the best NBA team at home this season with a record of 24-3. They were embarrassed by the way they played in Boston, and that loss is still fresh in their minds. Secondly, as good as the C's played that game, the Heat missed wide — WIDE — open shots throughout. Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade combined to shoot 8-for-28.

GETTY IMAGES



▶ LeBron James had 26 points in Boston's last visit to Miami.

Don't look ahead

Tonight kicks off the C's last string of games — a grueling stretch that includes 10 games in the final 17 days of the season. It's all hands on deck now, and with a depleted bench it won't be easy. Ray Allen has the right attitude in taking a bench role for Avery Bradley. Both players will still get 25-plus minutes of playing time. Size down low is still an issue, but Kevin Garnett has done more than enough to make up for it.

JIMMY TOSCANO
sports@metro.us

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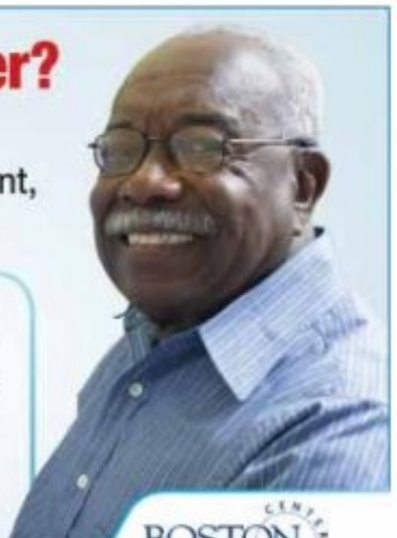

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